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makers in our North Temperate Zone. In this connection, in the volume before us, we take pleasure in calling special attention to the emphasis laid on cyclonic controls in the discussion of the effect of cloudiness and rain on the hourly variations of temperature (pp. 66-68, with typical curves), and in the typical barograms (Pl. II) and thermograms (Pl. V), although the latter diagrams are crude and hardly up to the general standard of the book as a whole.

R. DEC. W.

Geschichte und Herkunft der schweizerischen Alpenflora. Eine Uebersicht ueber den gegenwaertigen Stand der Frage. By Marie Ch. Jerosch. pp. 253. Leipzig, 1903. W. Engelmann (8 marks).

This work is in the nature of a critical compendium of the materials derived from all sources bearing upon the problem stated in the title, "The History and Origin of the Swiss Alpine Flora." By "Alpine" we are to understand that flora, the species of which have their occurrence-centres (Schwerpunkt) above the timber limit, which, in the Swiss Alps, has an average elevation of 1900 meters. The author has had no mean task before her in collating and digesting the very large amount of literature contributory to the solution of the problem stated. Evidences have been gathered from all sources; the hypotheses based upon them have been critically examined, and the conclusions, so far as it has been possible to draw them in the light of present knowledge, have been set forth. The character of the material makes the book of interest and value not alone to the botanist, but to the geographer, geologist and palæontologist. Its scope may be briefly stated as follows:

In Chapter I, the author states the aim of her work, and discusses the conceptions and assumptions pertinent thereto.

The features of the Swiss Alpine and Arctic climates are stated and compared in Chapter II.

Chapter III deals with the history of the Diluvium. Accepting Penck's earlier division of this period into three glacial and two interglacial epochs, the attempt is made to form an estimate of the climatic conditions which probably existed at these various times. The view is accepted that at the period of most widespread glaciation, a strip of non-glaciated country existed, which supported, in its cold, wet climate, an arctic and sub-arctic flora. The elements of this were alpine and arctic plants, which, unable to withstand the extremely unfavorable glacial conditions, here mingled together. There is no evidence that phanerogams were able to outlive the

glacial period in Scandinavia—and only a few such survived in the Alps.

In Chapter IV, the evidence is accepted as certain that there existed during the second interglacial epoch a steppe-period characterized by a fauna and flora peculiar to arid conditions.

A short chapter (V) deals with the climatic changes of the Post-glacial. There is no evidence that there have been changes of such magnitude as to produce any permanent effect on the flora.

A brief review of the history of the flora of Middle Europe follows in Chapter VI, while the next three chapters (summarized in the tenth) deal specifically with the Swiss Alpine flora (pp. 70–158). The results arrived at are far too complex to admit of a condensed statement.

The remainder of the volume (pp. 161–253) is occupied by tables embodying the various views held as to the division of the Diluvial (Tab. I), and of the Post-glacial (II), and by an extended table (III) showing the distribution of the Swiss Alpine species as at present understood. A full bibliography, and full explanations to complement the tables, together with an index, occupy the rest of the space.

Every student of plant geography will find this book essential to his working library.

F. E. L.

The Silent Trade. By P. J. Hamilton Grierson. X and 112 pp., with a list of the authors cited. William Green & Sons, Edinburgh, 1903.

By Silent Trade (*Stummer Handel*, as the Germans call it) the author means a class of commercial exchanges, which in their simplest form are transactions between persons who not only do not address, but do not see one another. Another form of the silent trade is that described by Herodotus as employed by the Carthaginians in their dealings with an African people. The Carthaginians would unload their wares along the beach, return to their ships, and raise a great smoke. The natives, seeing the smoke, would go to the shore, leave gold there and withdraw. Then, the Carthaginians, coming ashore, would take the gold and go their way if they thought it sufficient; if not they would return to their ship, and the natives would add to the gold till the traders were satisfied. Neither party dealt unfairly with the other.

Traces of this silent trade are found in every quarter of the